

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a carbonic ester, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising subjecting an aromatic monohydroxy compound or an aliphatic monohydroxy compound ~~is subjected~~ to oxidative carbonylation with carbon monoxide and oxygen in the presence of a palladium catalyst using a compound having a carbonate bond as a reaction solvent.

Claim 2 (Original): A process for producing a carbonic ester as defined in claim 1, wherein the aromatic monohydroxy compound or aliphatic monohydroxy compound is subjected to oxidative carbonylation with carbon monoxide and oxygen in the presence of the palladium catalyst and a promoter using the compound having a carbonate bond as the reaction solvent.

Claim 3 (Original): A process for producing a carbonic ester as defined in claim 2, wherein the promoter is a redox catalyst.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a carbonic ester as defined in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the promoter is an organic salt for activating the aromatic monohydroxy compound or aliphatic monohydroxy compound.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a carbonic ester as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, wherein the oxidative carbonylation is carried out in a further presence of a dehydrating agent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a carbonic ester as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction solvent compound having a carbonate bond is a compound selected from the group consisting of dimethyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, diphenyl carbonate, ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, diallyl carbonate, allyl methyl carbonate, bis(2-methoxyphenyl) carbonate, vinylene carbonate, dibenzyl carbonate, di-(o-methoxyphenyl) carbonate, ~~and~~ methyl ethyl carbonate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Original): A process for producing a carbonic ester as defined in claim 6, wherein the compound having a carbonate bond is propylene carbonate.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a carbonic ester, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising reacting an aromatic monohydroxy compound or an aliphatic monohydroxy compound ~~is reacted~~ with carbon monoxide and oxygen in the presence of (a) a palladium compound, (b) a compound having redox catalytic activity, (c) at least one onium salt selected from onium bromides and onium chlorides and (d) zeolite having a particle diameter of 300  $\mu\text{m}$  or smaller.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising subjecting an aromatic dihydroxy compound or an aliphatic dihydroxy compound ~~is subjected~~ to oxidative carbonylation with carbon monoxide and oxygen in the presence of a palladium catalyst using a compound having a carbonate bond as a reaction solvent.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound or aliphatic dihydroxy compound is subjected to oxidative carbonylation with carbon monoxide and oxygen in the presence of the palladium catalyst and a promoter using the compound having a carbonate bond as the reaction solvent.

Claim 11 (Original): A process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in claim 10, wherein the promoter is a redox catalyst.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the promoter is an organic salt for activating the aromatic dihydroxy compound or aliphatic dihydroxy compound.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in ~~any one of claims 9 through 12~~ claim 9, wherein the oxidative carbonylation is carried out in a further presence of a dehydrating agent.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in ~~any one of claims 9 through 13~~ claim 9, wherein the compound having a carbonate bond is a compound selected from the group consisting of dimethyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, diphenyl carbonate, ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, diallyl carbonate, allyl methyl carbonate, bis(2-methoxyphenyl) carbonate, vinylene carbonate, dibenzyl carbonate, di-(o-methoxyphenyl) carbonate, ~~and~~ methyl ethyl carbonate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate as defined in claim 9 ~~through 14~~, wherein the compound having a carbonate bond is propylene carbonate.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polycarbonate, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising reacting an aromatic dihydroxy compound or an aliphatic dihydroxy compound ~~is reacted~~ with carbon monoxide and oxygen in the presence of (a) a palladium compound, (b) a compound having redox catalytic activity, (c) at least one onium salt selected from onium bromides and onium chlorides and (d) zeolite having a particle diameter of 300  $\mu\text{m}$  or smaller.